

REPLACED BY  
ART 34 AMST

The present invention relates to the following (1) to (8):

(1) Natural cheese which comprises a lactic acid bacterium belonging to *Lactobacillus gasseri* having a disinfection potency against *Helicobacter pylori*.

(2) The natural cheese according to (1), wherein the lactic acid bacterium is resistant to low pH environment.

(3) The natural cheese according to (1) or (2), wherein the lactic acid bacterium is *Lactobacillus gasseri* OLL 2716 (FERM BP-6999) or a mutant thereof.

(4) The natural cheese according to any of (1) to (3), wherein the lactic acid bacterium is present at a viable count of  $10^7$  cfu/g or more when preserved at a temperature of 10°C or less for 6 months.

(5) A food which comprises the natural cheese according to any one of (1) to (4).

(6) A process for producing the natural cheese according to any one of (1) to (4), which comprises:

adding a yeast extract to a milk component before formation of a curd, and/or incubating the curd after molding and pressing.

(7) The process according to (6), wherein the curd is incubated without being cooled after molding and pressing.

problem was noticeable concerning the flavor of the gouda cheese (Table 6).

Table 4  
Changes in bacterial count during the process of producing  
*L. gasseri* OLL 2716-containing gouda cheese

Step	<i>L. gasseri</i> count (log cfu/g)	Other bacteria (log cfu/g)
Sterilized milk	-	3.48
<i>L. gasseri</i> starter	9.03	-
CHN-01 starter	-	9.03
Raw milk with starter	6.79	6.92
Whey	6.08	6.04
Salt-free curd (Day produced)	8.74	9.23
Salt-free curd (Day following production)	8.75	9.69

Table 5  
Changes in bacterial count during preservation of  
*L. gasseri* OLL 2716-containing gouda cheese

Preservation temperature	Preserved at 10°C (log cfu/g)				Preserved at 5°C (log cfu/g)			
Sampling part	Center		Surface		Center		Surface	
Preservation time	LG	others	LG	others	LG	others	LG	others
Immediately after production	8.75	9.69	8.74	9.67	-	-	-	-
After 1 week	8.78	9.74	8.60	9.66	-	-	-	-
After 2 weeks	8.81	9.77	8.38	8.76	-	-	-	-
After 1 month	8.60	9.04	7.78	8.73	8.78	9.62	7.78	8.73
After 2 months	8.00	8.60	7.10	8.42	8.60	9.20	7.48	8.70
After 3 months	8.08	7.41	-	-	8.38	8.75	-	-
After 4 months	7.60	7.04	-	-	8.04	8.86	-	-
After 5 months	7.38	7.36	-	-	8.04	7.79	-	-
After 6 months	7.67	6.20	<6.00	<6.00	8.01	7.30	<6.00	<6.00

LG: *L. Gasseri*